

JUL 27 2001

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Ex. Comm. okays department, hires pair

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

The Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), meeting at the Baptist Building in Jackson on June 28, approved a revamped department, filled a pair of open positions, and heard a positive report on the board's annual financial audit.

Ian D. Richardson, minister of music and media at First Church, Cleveland, was approved for the position of director of the new MBCB Communications Services Department, effective July 23.

"The Communication Services Department is a combination of several areas of work: Broadcast Services, Office of Communications, Graphic Design, Print Shop, mailroom functions, and the maintenance of the board's new web site," Barri A. Shirley, MBCB associate executive director for business services and supervisor of the new department, told the committee.

"This configuration will produce consistency for our departments by creating a one-stop approach to marketing and promoting board work and interests. Additionally, this arrangement strengthens our position to assist local churches in their marketing strategies," Shirley explained.

Richardson, 47, has served First Church, Cleveland, since 1997. Prior to that, he served as minister of music and senior adults at First Church, Lake City, Fla. (1993-97); and as part-time minister of music at Mt. Pleasant Church, Bogalusa, La. (1991-93) and Liberty Church, Flowood (1988-91).

Before he surrendered to the ministry, Richardson worked 15 years in the television and communications fields, including as producer/director and in management.

He is a graduate of Leland High School ('72), Mississippi

College in Clinton (B.A.-Communications '76), and New Orleans Seminary (Master of Church Music '93).

He is presently serving as a board member for MBCB

Broadcast Services, as a member of the Mississippi Singing Churchmen, and as music director for Mid-Delta Association in Cleveland.

Richardson's father James, now retired, is a longtime Mississippi Baptist pastor. His twin brothers Gary and Jay are pastors at North Oxford Church, Oxford, and

First Church, Greenville, respectively.

The Executive Committee also approved Michael Ball, 37, to replace the retiring Ken Watkins as director of the Baptist Student Union (BSU) at Mississippi State University (MSU) in Starkville, effective July 1.

Ball has served since 1993 as associate BSU director at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, which has grown over the years from about 60 students to more than 400 students involved in BSU activities weekly.

Prior to his tenure in Hattiesburg, Ball served as BSU director at Pearl River Community College in Poplarville (1991-93), and as BSU director at San Antonio College and Palo Alto College, both in San Antonio, Texas (1990-91).

He also served as part-time BSU director at Ceder Valley Community College in Lancaster, Texas (1987-90).

Ball, a Jackson native, holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from MSU ('86) and a Master of Divinity

degree from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth ('89).

Ball, a member of the MSU Hall of Fame and a former BSU summer missionary, currently serves as a deacon and worship team member at Temple Church, Hattiesburg.

"Michael has an excellent background in collegiate ministry," said Jerry Merriman, director of the MBCB Collegiate Ministry Department.

"His experience, commitment, ability, and maturity make him an excellent choice for this position," Merriman said.

Mark Peach of the accounting firm of KPMG presented the Independent Auditor's Report and Financial Statements for the years 1999 and 2000.

Peach told the committee that the MBCB financial statements were "in conformity with accounting procedures general-

ly accepted in the United States of America," resulting in the designation of the MBCB audit as "clean."

In other business, the Executive Committee heard an update from Church Revitalization Committee chairman Wayne VanHorn, pastor of First Church, Columbia.

VanHorn, who is also currently serving as a member of the Executive Committee and as MBCB president, said the revitalization committee's work is progressing and should be concluded on

schedule for a final report to the 2001 Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The next scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee is prior to the August 28 meeting of the full convention board at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko.



Richardson



Ball



Media awards presentation photo showing several people on a stage.

### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Program saving lives

Extension director named

Sunday School lessons

Baptist Children's Village

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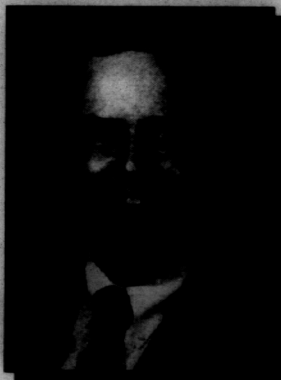
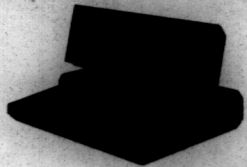
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## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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39205-0530 (601) 968-3800  
Fax: (601) 292-3330  
E-mail: [baptistrecord@mbcb.org](mailto:baptistrecord@mbcb.org)

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**A**s surely as heat and humidity signal the arrival of the inferno we call a Mississippi summer, a new church year is almost upon us. It won't be long now until school starts and church attendance begins to rise after the annual summer slump.

One can almost hear the bustle and feel the energy of the new church year. Over the next few weeks, members of the many congregations that comprise the Mississippi Baptist Convention will be invited to participate in many special ways in that new church year — some for the first time, some for the fiftieth time.

There will be a great need for church workers in all areas of service, as families settle into their routines after a hectic summer and return to normal church attendance patterns.

One of the greatest strengths of the Christian church is that God has gifted each one of us for service in the church system he personally designed. Each role has been ordained by him, and each of us has been equipped to fill the role he has selected for us. He knows his plans for us better than we do.

One of the greatest struggles of the Christian church, however, is convincing people to fill their roles.

Christianity is not a sit-on-the-sidelines type of religion. Christianity was crafted from the beginning to be a participatory faith (Matt. 28:18-20). It is inarguable that we are all called to be involved.

In God's wisdom, he did not set aside a tribe of holy Christian priests to manage the business of the church while the rest of us went on our way. He made us all priests, and gave us priestly duties.

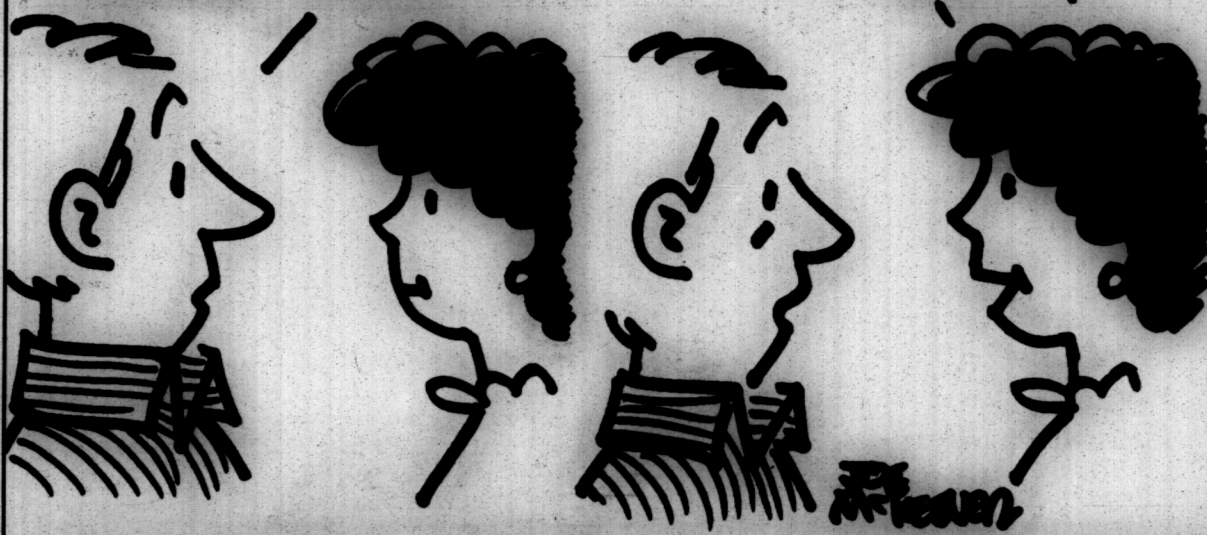
That's the flip side of the revered Baptist tradition of the priesthood of the believer. We honor the spiritual independence and closeness to God that comes

## A participatory faith

**"I ASKED BOB TO BE  
CHAIRMAN. HE SAID  
HE WOULD IF IT WAS  
GOD'S WILL. SO HE  
PRAYED ABOUT IT...**

**...AND THEN TURNED  
ME DOWN."**

**"FRUSTRATING,  
ISN'T IT?"**



with being our own priests, but we tend to neglect the responsibilities that also go along with being a priest.

Far too many Christians, Mississippi Baptists included, have decided that the hiring and maintenance of a pastor and church staff is a rough surrogate for their own participation. Having these people on the church payroll makes a lot of us feel better about our personal priestly failures.

Church member in the hospital? Too busy; send the pastor. Homeless family at your doorstep? Too smelly; refer them to the local Baptist association shelter. Lost soul walking the streets in front of the church? Too dangerous; call security. A single parent seeking to turn her life around? Too risky; that's what the church's counseling minister was hired to do.

This despite the clear and oft-repeated instructions from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for each of us to get personally involved.

In John 21:15-17, Jesus does not advise

Peter to retain a valet to handle his Christian responsibilities. Jesus pointedly states, "Feed my sheep."

In Matt. 25:34-40, Jesus does not recommend the hiring of church staff but rather describes the surprise of the faithful who, upon his return, discover they are entitled to their eternal reward because "... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

These are the timeless words of the Savior we profess and willingly choose to follow. Since we have declared him our Lord and Master, why don't we heed his words?

When your church leaders call on you this year to become personally involved in the work of the church, don't put them off with hollow excuses about your busy schedule. Don't dodge them for weeks while they await your answer.

Just do it. Be a part of this unmatched, participatory faith called Christianity. After what Jesus did for us, it's the least we can do for him.

## GUEST OPINION:



### Open witness in the marketplace

By Henry T. Blackaby, president  
Henry Blackaby Ministries

**N**ASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — It is not only imperative for others, but your own life, to give a gentle, clear, and effective witness to Jesus Christ in the marketplace where God has placed you.

Jesus made it abundantly clear that every Christian is salt and light. Each Christian can and should have a real and dynamic influence on others.

A clear sharing about Jesus is one way that God has purposed for this influence to be effective: *You are the light of the world... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven* (Matt. 5:14-16).

Jesus also said: *Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven* (Matt. 10:32-33).

Not everyone will joyfully "receive" your witness positively — but one may, and his

or her eternal destiny will be changed forever.

No one can respond to what they do not hear, but God himself will always honor his Word.

It will not go forth and fail to produce that for which he sent it, through you. (See Isaiah 55:10-13.)

God himself assures every believer that he will be actively at work in and through every witness given. What an encouragement and assurance.

Further, in the Scriptures, God works more in the workplace than any other place. For

it is there that some will hear for the first time, and others will hear one more time, what their consciences are feeling.

Still others will have brought to their remembrance what they once knew but have neglected. We are not told to "make" something happen. We are told simply to be "witnesses to him" (Acts 1:8).

Almost every week I hear of God's people sharing about Jesus where they work. I also hear of lives being changed and transformed, even marriages saved and suicides prevented.

All this happens because one believer shared from his life who Jesus is and what Jesus means to them. Every witness before men brings an immediate "witness before the Father in heaven," given by Jesus on your behalf.

The father immediately responds to you, bringing his blessings into your life.

Begin your day with an unhurried time before God. Let him alert you and adjust you to what he will be doing around your life today.

Then go to work with a heart full of expectation and joy, watching for him to direct you and enable you to bear witness to him with someone whom he has prepared to hear you.

It is in the marketplace that God is most at work through his people, as "salt and light" to others.

*Blackaby is the author of the Experiencing God series. He can be contacted at [www.henryblackaby.com](http://www.henryblackaby.com).*



# 1,600 Missouri teens begin 'The Journey'

HANNIBAL, Mo. (BP) — As students placed crosses in the ground bearing the name of lost friends and relatives, one couldn't help but sense the somberness of the moment.

During the silent, funeral-like ceremony, many students were reminded of the urgency to share their faith with friends.

"The Journey" was the theme of Super Summer 2001, a week-long evangelism school sponsored by Real Ministry and the Missouri Baptist Convention.

T-shirts displaying Acts 20:24 reminded the teenagers of their charge: "However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace."

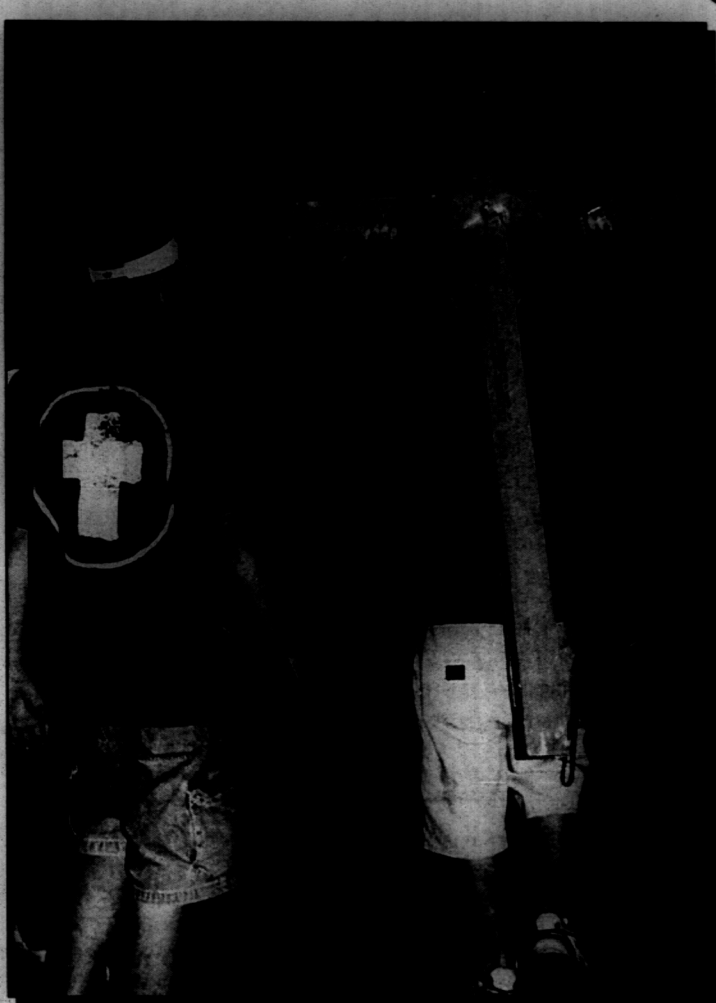
That task — to testify the Gospel — is at the heart of Super Summer's vision.

"We are training and discipling students in the area of evangelism to reach the lost," explained Brad Bennett, Super Summer coordinator and director of operations for Real Ministry.

Bennett also serves as youth minister at Calvary Church, Neosho, Mo.

"The Journey means the laying down of worldly things and taking up the spiritual things. It really means dying to self," Bennett said.

In June, three Missouri



**CARRY THE CROSS** — "Orange" school students carry their cross to the evening Joy Explosion during Super Summer at Hannibal-LaGrange College in Hannibal, Mo. The symbol was based on Luke 9:23-25, to help students better understand the sacrifice Jesus made. (Photo by Erica Henry)

Baptist colleges hosted Super Summer, including Hannibal-LaGrange College (HLG), Southwest Baptist University, and William Jewell College.

Approximately 1600 youth and 200 volunteers total were in attendance during the three weeks.

Bennett said a major emphasis this year was prayer. From sunrise to sundown, at least two Super Summer students would sit in an outdoor designated prayer area.

One student would read Scripture while the other would pray. Each half hour students would rotate out of the prayer area, allowing participation by more students.

"With the prayer area, we are showing students the importance of prayer by getting them involved," said Bennett.

"Communication is the key to intimacy in any relationship, especially with Christ."

This is Bennett's first year coordinating the event. Previously, the event was solely sponsored by the Missouri Baptist Convention.

"I really believe there needs to be more of an emphasis on adults. We are thinking of ways right now to bring more of the leaders here," said Bennett. "We want to train the leaders and share ways for them to build on what their students learned."

"Send your best and we'll send them back better" is Super Summer's call to get the most dedicated youth to attend.

Students get away from the distractions of television, radio, and online chatting to specifically and intentionally learn strategies for peer evangelism.

Super Summer separates each age level, grades eight through 12, into school groups of red, blue, yellow, orange, and green.

Purple school consists of youth ministers and workers. Deans and assistant deans lead the school sessions, while "moms" and "pops" lead family groups, usually consisting of about 10-25 youth.

The family time allows the

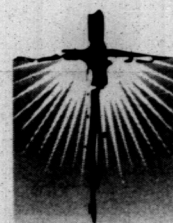
Super Summer students a chance to build relationships and share in a small-group setting. The moms and pops, who are usually college-age young adults, serve as mentors, encouragers, and mediators during family time.

Joy Explosion, the evening service, offered a time of intimate praise and worship and hearing from the Word. Music, drama, and a speaker challenged the students to go to a deeper level with Christ.

Jonas, a St. Louis band led by Jake Smith, Jr., led worship again this year.

Teenagers, in a society where materialism and self-fulfillment runs rampant, sang in unison, "Trade my selfishness for your holiness. I will not bow down for another," pledging to put no other gods before the one, true God.

"God taught me about being still and listening to him," said Emily Chittenden of National Heights Church, Springfield, Mo.



MISSISSIPPI  
**BAPTISTS**

**THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE**

*THE BAPTIST*  
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## Teens, Internet entwined

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — About 73% of U.S. teenagers use the Internet and they say it plays a significant role in their relationships with family and friends. They also habitually multitask, performing several Internet activities simultaneously.

These findings are part of a new study of teenage life online, released this month by the Pew Internet and American Life Project. The study concentrated on Americans in the 12 to 17-year old bracket. One teenager responded to the survey saying, "I get bored if it's not all going at once because everything has gaps — waiting for someone to respond to an IM (instant message), waiting for a Web site to come up, commercials on TV, etc." The study shows that most teenagers use instant messaging, although it has not replaced the phone as their primary means of communication. The Internet is changing the way teens interact with their friends, the study reveals. For instance, 37% of the respondents say they have used instant messaging to write something they would not have said in person. Many teens say they manage and play with their online identities and about half admit that they've exchanged e-mail or instant messages with strangers. Ironically, 61% of the parents polled said they have rules about the Internet in their home, yet only 37% of the teens reported they were subject to such rules. The full 46-page report is available for free online at [http://www.pewinternet.org/reports/pdfs/PIP\\_Teens\\_Report.pdf](http://www.pewinternet.org/reports/pdfs/PIP_Teens_Report.pdf)

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

Woman's Missionary Union volunteers from Illinois and Mississippi conduct Backyard Bible Clubs and evening Vacation Bible Schools at the Choctaw Indian Reservation in Neshoba County. The 18 participants also hold afternoon sewing classes, blood pressure checks, and choir leadership training.

### 20 years ago

Anna Ward Aven Whittington, 93, dies June 24 at her home in Greenwood. She was the first female graduate of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton, and the widow of U. S. Representative William Madison Whittington.

### 30 years ago

Gifts to the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention total \$775,973.99 for the month of June, recording the highest total for any single month in the 26-year history of Southern Baptist's unified giving program.



# Picayune pregnancy program saving lives

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

Pat Spence, director of Pregnancy Support Services in Picayune, has found her niche. "We're here primarily to save the life of babies and do that by loving the mother," she said.

While many communities have facilities that deal with crisis pregnancies, Pregnancy Support Services (PSS) serves a needy area. According to Spence, Pearl River County has one of the highest pregnancy rates in the entire country. In 1995, for instance, there were 189 births in Pearl County to unmarried women; 84 of those were to girls under the age of 15.

Spence said that Kyle Jones founded PSS in June, 2000. Jones was pastor of Rolling Hills Church in Carriere and was involved in a study of Experiencing God in 1997. "Brother Kyle saw how Henry Blackaby encouraged people to watch where God was working and join him, and that's how the vision for the PSS came about."

Several concerned citizens met, and the committee formed from this group decided to affiliate with the Sav-a-Life organization of the Birmingham, Ala., area. Sav-a-Life has been in existence since 1980 and currently sponsors more than 45 centers in the southeast. Since its inception, Sav-a-Life has saved at least 2,000 unborn children by testing almost 40,000 young women for pregnancy, handling 20,000 hotline calls, and introducing almost 4,000 clients to Christ.

"Being a part of an umbrella organization such as Sav-a-Life has given us access to quality training and opportunities, and to give us policies and guidelines to go by," said Spence.

PSS has become a light-house to the community, according to Spence. "Everything we have here was donated, except for one computer," she said. "Because of that, we're able to concentrate on the girls who come through. We want to be there for them as they face the storms of life."

"It's the free pregnancy tests that draw clients in," Spence continued, "but we want to think of it as a divine appointment."

The center itself is a renovated, restored home. The yard is freshly mowed and the flowerbeds are clean and neat. The home-like atmosphere is continued through the counseling rooms. The overall effect is peaceful and loving.

Clients are welcomed and helped with their needs by a volunteer counselor. "We've got 28 volunteers, ranging in age from 29 to 84," said Spence. Other free and confidential services include pregnancy tests, referrals to other agencies, maternity and infant clothing, baby items, adoption services, and post-abortion counseling.

"It's amazing how these women change," said Spence. "The first time they

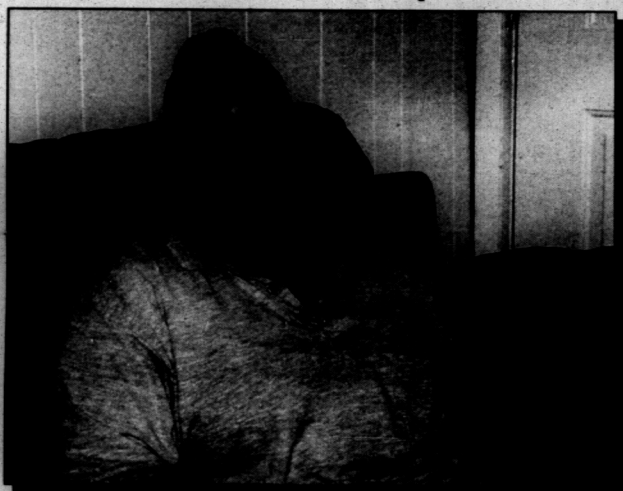
come in, they might be slumped over, with a glazed expression, and after a couple of months have a whole new countenance."

When asked how a church or community might get involved in a similar ministry, Spence said, "Know the needs. See the burden of the girls who become pregnant. Find where God is working and join him. Call an organization such as Sav-a-Life."

For more information on the work of PSS, call the center at (601) 799-2668. Web address: [www.pregnancysupportservices.org](http://www.pregnancysupportservices.org). Sav-a-Life can be reached at (205) 979-0302.



HELPING HANDS — Mary Fowler (left) board member/counselor/office manager at Pregnancy Support Services in Picayune, and Pat Spence, director, take inventory of children's clothing that will be made available to clients of the center. (Photo by Tony Martin)



A SUCCESS STORY — Tiffany Massey is one of many clients of Pregnancy Support Services has aided by its ministry. Massey had brought another client to the center the morning this photo was taken. (Photo by Tony Martin)

## EMBRYONIC CELL RESEARCH

Right now, the U.S. Congress is in a great debate over the question of whether or not to fund embryo cell research.

The President is on the hot seat as to whether or not he will support this issue. Mississippi Senator Trent Lott, the present Minority Leader in the U.S. Senate (formerly the Majority Leader) stands with the door open for him to decide one way or the other.

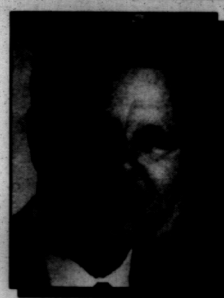
In my opinion, two things need to be clarified in this discussion:

- The debate is over whether or not to use federal funding, i.e., your tax dollars, to carry out this research. Scientists and private funding are already in place doing this research.

- There is the question of what are we actually dealing with in this research. Usually, it is referred to as "stem cell research" — the name by which the tiny cluster of cells is generally described, but I think the discussion could be more clearly understood if the cells were called what they actually are: embryonic cells.

They are that little circle of cells, thirty or forty in number, that first begin to form when an egg and sperm unite. We can call them what we want, but they are the structural beginnings of every person who is reading this article.

Some argue they are non-descript cells that can become any-



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

thing and others would respond that they are miraculous kinds of cells that know what they should become — a human being.

"Stem cells" sounds quite a bit different than "embryo cells." I suppose that is the reason they refer to them in that fashion, so that people won't know to what they are actually referring.

Doctors do speak a different language! Most folks have had at least one mind-bending experience of talking with a doctor who is doing an in-depth, elongated description of what he did or is going to do. Then, when he leaves, you sit there bewildered and you wonder, "What in the world did he say?"

In this debate, stem cells are embryo cells that, if planted in a womb, or if left alone there, will become what they destined to become by DNA: babies that are little people.

While this has been so prominent in the news, I have heard, dozens of times, someone referring to the fact that they will be thrown away anyway, so why not use them?

They can be harvested from a woman who has had invitro fertilization implants into her womb and does not want to carry five babies to term, so they will just take three and throw the others away. Or, they can harvest those cells from women who choose to have abortions or women who have miscarriages, and use them in their research.

Somewhere along life's course, we are going to have to stop and re-evaluate who we are, who these developing little people will become, and what kind of society we want to develop, and then make decisions on the basis of moral uprightness.

At times this has been referred to as the "throw-away" generation — what with all of our conveniences and disposable stuff. Now, apparently, it has extended to human babies. This is a step beyond abortion!

While I recognize that a lot of good can come from embryonic stem cell research, some scientists are trying to inject sanity into the discussion to remind everyone there are other ways to accomplish the same thing.

There are other human cells that can be harvested and used without using the embryo cell. The research done in relationship to diabetes, Parkinsons, and heart disease can be carried on through other avenues.

I am not a scientist and do not claim to know everything there is to know about embryonic cell research, but, what I do know is this — that human beings are not just piles of cells to be used as spare parts for other folks!

Regardless of whether they are in the late stages of life or in the beginning stages of life, they are God's special creation, touched by him, and designed for a purpose in life.

What can we do to make a difference?

- Pray for our President and our national leaders, that God will guide their thinking and that their decisions will honor him.

- Seek to be a positive voice for life with good information to help friends, neighbors, colleagues, and family understand.

- Express your views to your congressman, senator, and the President. They do pay attention to what you think. If you need their addresses or telephone numbers, call the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission at (800) 748-1651, ext. 329, or e-mail [rwood@mbcb.org](mailto:rwood@mbcb.org).

Developing little babies must not be the "collateral damage" in this debate!

## CWJC seeks mentors for program

The Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) of Central Mississippi is currently seeking mentors for its program. The program is designed to provide a mentorship program for young women who are interested in pursuing a career in the service industry. The program is currently accepting applications for mentors who are interested in providing a mentorship program for young women who are interested in pursuing a career in the service industry. The program is currently accepting applications for mentors who are interested in providing a mentorship program for young women who are interested in pursuing a career in the service industry. The program is currently accepting applications for mentors who are interested in providing a mentorship program for young women who are interested in pursuing a career in the service industry.



# Graham: health changed, message hasn't

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — He opened by proclaiming the exclusivity of the Gospel and closed by stressing the eternality of the soul.

During four days of preaching in Louisville, Ky., June 21-24, 82-year-old evangelist Billy Graham made it clear that while his health has changed in recent years, his message of salvation through Jesus Christ has not.

Graham preached to more than 180,000 people during four nights of the Greater Louisville Billy Graham Crusade at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium, including a stadium-record crowd of the 82-year-old preacher speak during the crusade, fallen, he has 57,500 on the final night.

Each night, nearly 2,300 people responded to Graham's call to make a commitment to Christ.

"Is there another way to heaven, except through Christ?" Graham asked the crowd on the first night.

"The Bible teaches there's only one way. Other people will come along and try to tell you there are other ways, but the Bible says there's only one way, and that way is by the cross.

"Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh to the Father but by me,'" Graham stressed.

Each night, the crowd showed its appreciation to Graham by giving him a standing ovation as he prepared to speak.

"For an 82-year-old evangelist to receive a standing ovation is a testament to his integrity — to the way he has been above reproach for so many years," said Southern Seminary professor Timothy Beougher, who served as a counselor during the nightly invitations.

"Even people who may not be people of faith respect that. In an era when so many so-called evangelists have fallen, he has maintained his integrity and has really set a

standard," said Beougher.

As he has during his entire career, Graham mixed anecdotes and humor with his Gospel presentation. He joked about his age, saying that the golden years are anything but golden.

"I've accepted the fact that I'm old, and I'm proud when they say that I'm old. It's a great period of life. ...It's a great period to experience God — to look back over your life and see the hand of God in your life, and to have the assurance that if you die you're going to heaven."

Graham then quickly reminded the hushed crowd of the reality of death, saying, "Every one of us are going to die."

"Are you in the process of losing your soul today?" he asked. "You were born in sin, and sin has separated you from God.

"There was a movie entitled, The Voyage of the Damned. That's the route some of you are taking right now. You're on a cruise. It's the voyage of the damned. You're having a pretty good time now, but one day it will snap, and you'll find yourself in a totally different environment.

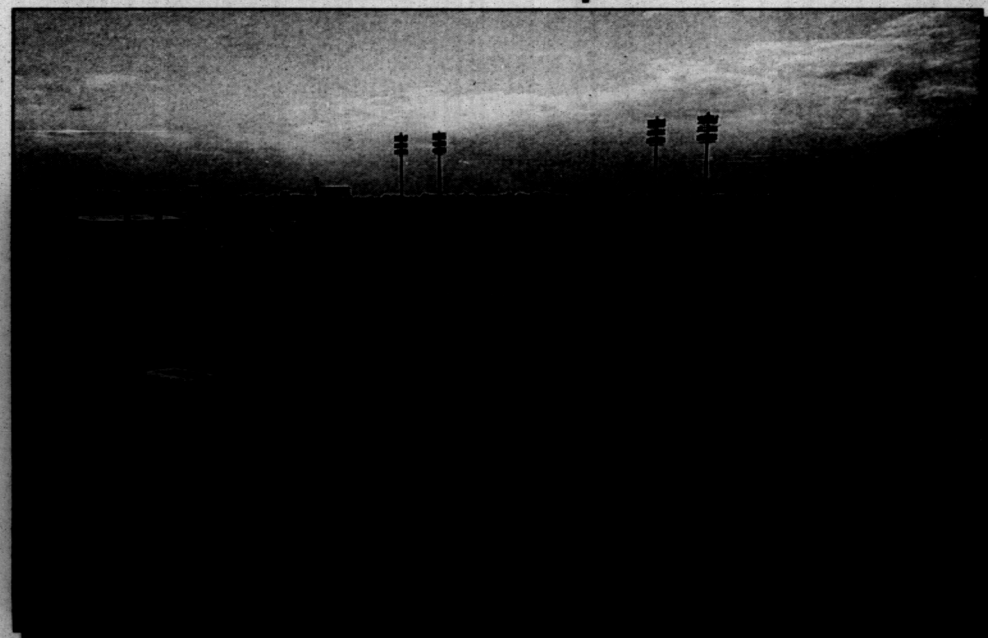
"There's no return route out of hell. It's a one-way street. Jesus Christ loved you so much that he died that you might live — that you might live fully, completely, and eternally."

"Even if you've got it all, it doesn't bring help in time of trouble."

While the world changes, God never changes, Graham reminded the crowd.



**SPRIT OF JOY** — Evangelist Billy Graham laughs during a sermon at the Greater Louisville Billy Graham Crusade. More than 180,000 people heard Graham speak during the crusade, which took place June 21-24 at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium. (Photo by Jonathan Roberts)



## Graham Crusade brings believers together

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — The man stood alone on the football field, tears streaming down his face.

Earlier that day he had driven some 12 hours from Florida to Louisville, Ky., just to hear Billy Graham. It was the first time he had heard the 82-year-old evangelist speak.

The man listened intently during Graham's message, then responded during the invitation by walking down the aisle.

Once on the field, the man encountered Kevin Howerton, a crusade counselor and a master of divinity student at Southern Seminary in Louisville.

"I saw him standing there with tears on his face," Howerton said. "He accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior."

Howerton, a native of Huntington, W. Va., said the man had made plans to drive back to Florida the next day.

"He drives a tractor on a farm, and he had always wanted to hear Billy Graham speak," he said.

Such stories were commonplace during the Greater Louisville Billy Graham Crusade June 21-24 at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium. More than 180,000 people heard Graham speak during the four days, including an overflow

stadium-record crowd of 57,500 on the final night.

On that night, 7,500 people sat outside the stadium and watched Graham's message on a large video screen. An average of nearly 2,300 people responded to the invitation each night.

It was Graham's first full-scale crusade in Louisville since 1956, giving the Southern

Seminary community a rare opportunity to participate firsthand in a Graham crusade. More than 500 members of the Southern community volunteered for various roles.

Each night, students counseled people from nearly every walk of life.

Chris Spradley, a master of divinity student from Nacogdoches, Texas, counseled

a 17-year-old teenager who was involved in alcohol and drug use. The teen, invited by friends, said that he and his mom did not have a good relationship.

"He said he's really been mistreating her, yelling at her and cursing at her," Spradley said.

"He said he just didn't want to do that anymore. God was working in his heart, and he came forward.

"I walked him through the Scriptures. He said he knew without a doubt that Christ died for his sins and that Christ was the only way he could change," Spradley said.

A Christian friend from the teen's school came down to talk to him and encourage him, Spradley added.

Southern Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr., crusade chairman and president, said the crusade served as a unifying force for the Christian community.

"Nothing else has brought together the kind of ethnic and racial and denominational inclusivity as is represented in this crusade; nothing in my experience and nothing in the recent history of Louisville has brought together such a group of committed Christians for one purpose," he said.



**SHARING THE GOOD NEWS** — Southern Seminary student Tommy Hullette counsels a couple during the Greater Louisville Billy Graham Crusade. Hullette was one of more than 500 members of the Southern Seminary community to participate in the crusade, which took place June 21-24 at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium. (Photo by Jonathan Roberts)

**YOUTH JOIN IN** — A capacity crowd of 46,000 attended the teen-oriented "Concert for the NeXt Generation" June 23 during the Greater Louisville Billy Graham Crusade. (Photo by Jonathan Roberts)



## STAFF CHANGES



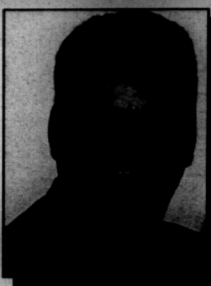
McNeil

**Cold Springs Church, Collins,** has called **David McNeil** as pastor effective April 22. Churches he previously served were Good Hope, Richton; Calvary, Ellisville; Fair Ridge, Stringer; and Calvary, Louin. A native of Bay Springs, McNeil recently graduated from William Carey College.

**Tylertown Church,** has called **Pete Pearce** as minister of education and youth, effective July 1. A native of Florence, Pearce received his education at Clarke College and Southwestern Seminary. His previous place of service was Bethel Church, Brandon.

**Oakvale Church, Lawrence County,** called **Derek Lambert** as minister of youth effective May 27. Randy Gardner is pastor.

**Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth,** has recently called **David Haynes**, a native of Alcorn County, as youth minister.



Haynes

J. Carroll Farmer, a native of

Jackson, has accepted the position as pastor of education and administration at Crawford Church, Mobile, Ala., effective June 18. Churches he served as education minister in Mississippi include Main Street, Hattiesburg; and Van Winkle and Woodville Heights in Jackson. Farmer is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary. He also served churches in Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

**Richmond Church, Tupelo,** has called **Clay Anthony** as pastor effective June 3.

Anthony is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southern Seminary. His previous places of service include Pilgrim's Rest Church, Crystal Springs.



Anthony

**Second, Calhoun City:** July 22; services will begin at 10:30 a.m.; 11 a.m. service, Ed Pendergrast, speaker; covered dish lunch at noon followed by afternoon services; homecoming message by Jeff Howell, pastor of Gore Springs Church; for additional information, call Carl Morris, pastor, at (662) 628-5584.

**Southside, Yazoo City:** July

15; services will begin at 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground, and afternoon service; former pastors and ministers of music will be present; call the church office at (601) 746-4591 for additional information.

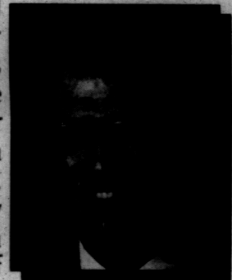
**Union, Beaumont:** July 22; song service, 10:30 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Wayne Walley, pastor, morning message, followed by

covered-dish luncheon; 1 p.m., singing featuring the Martin Family of Mauriceville, Texas.

**Sarepta, Meadville:** July 22; 11 a.m.; covered dish in fellowship hall; and singing in the afternoon; Bill Wright, Philadelphia Church, Lincoln Association, guest speaker; Wayne Mcgoon Singers, music; Webb Armstrong, pastor.

## Vinson named Seminary Ext. director

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — William Vinson, an instructor of Seminary Extension classes since 1984 and a current faculty member at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, has been named executive director of Seminary Extension, effective Aug. 1. He replaces Ed Thiele, who retired in June after serving as executive director for four and a half years. Seminary Extension, a ministry of the Council of Seminary Presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention, exists to provide ministers and laity the opportunity to take classes close to home through more than 500 extension centers. The hours can be transferred to universities or counted toward Seminary Extension diplomas and certificates. Seminary Extension's offices are located in Nashville, Tenn. Vinson is a two-time graduate of Southwestern, having earned the doctor of philosophy degree in 1987 and the master of divinity degree in 1981. He has taught at Southwestern since 1981, and was elected to the faculty in 1999. He is currently serving as director of the seminary's department of undergraduate and lay theological studies. While at Southwestern, Vinson pioneered the effort to offer Seminary Extension courses on the Internet as well as CD. For information on seminary extension, visit its website at <http://www.seminaryextension.com>.



Vinson



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or visit our website at [www.wmcarey.edu](http://www.wmcarey.edu)



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 12, 2001

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

## 2001 BIBLE DRILL CLINICS

SEPTEMBER 10, 11, 17 & 18

### Mississippi BIBLE DRILL



Hebrews 4:12

### Bible Drill is:

- hiding God's Word in your heart.
- finding any book of the Bible quickly.
- knowing where key passages and Bible teachings are located.
- learning to love and respect God's Word.

### Bible Drill Clinics offer:

- basic training for leaders of children and youth Bible drills.
- training for callers, judges and time keepers (for church, associational and state drills).
- an introduction to Bible Buddies.
- an introduction to Speakers Tournament.

### CLINIC LOCATIONS AND LEADERS

#### Monday, September 10

Hernando Baptist Church, Hernando  
led by Don Hicks

Bayou Vista Baptist Church  
Gulfport  
led by Harvey Ellis

#### Tuesday, September 11

First Baptist Church, Tupelo  
led by Don Hicks

Main Street Baptist Church  
Hattiesburg  
led by Harvey Ellis

#### Monday, September 17

First Baptist Church, Natchez  
led by Don Hicks

Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church  
Meridian\*  
• Experienced Leaders  
led by Steve Jackson

- New Leaders led by Glenda Winstead

#### Tuesday, September 18

- First Baptist Church, Clinton\*
- Children's Workers (children's Bible drill and Bible Buddies) led by Don Hicks
- Youth Workers (youth Bible drill and Speakers Tournament)  
led by Harvey Ellis

\* These clinics have special features and are open to anyone from anywhere across the state.

All clinics are  
from 7-9 p.m.

### CLINIC PERSONNEL

Harvey Ellis, youth consultant  
Discipleship and Family Ministry Department

Don Hicks, children's consultant  
Discipleship and Family Ministry Department

Steve Jackson, pastor  
McLaurin Heights Baptist Church, Pearl

Glenda Winstead, Bible Drill leader  
Hope Baptist Church, Philadelphia

For more info call the Discipleship and  
Family Ministry Department  
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800.

### Professional Certification for Ministry Assistants and Ministry Office SkillShops

September 11-13, 2001  
Camp Garaywa, Clinton

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COMING SOON  
IN THE MAIL!

Ministry Office  
SkillShops  
Jane Barrett

Professional  
Certification  
Jenell Miller



# CML MINISTRY

MEDIA LIBRARIES... ONE

## 2001 Ephesians 4:4-6

### SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

- **TEAMWORK-DEWEY, SEARS AND ME**  
Leader: Eva Nell Hunter
- **AUTOMATION WITH CONCOURSE**  
Leader: Eva Nell Hunter
- **CONCOURSE EXTRAS**  
Leader: Eva Nell Hunter
- **PROMOTION LAGNIAPPE**  
Leaders: Eva Nell Hunter and Sue Berthelot
- **CHURCH MEDIA LIBRARY MINISTRY**  
Leader: Sue Berthelot
- **MEDIA SELECTION**  
(with emphasis on wedding)  
Leader: Sue Berthelot

For more info, contact:  
Broadcast Services, MBCB  
1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson  
601-968-3800

Summer 2001

Church Media  
Library  
Conference  
Growing  
Churches  
Through  
Discipleship

### CONFERENCE FEES AT GULFSHORE

Registration will begin at 1:30 p.m.

A" unit (2 persons per room)	
Adults	86.20
Youth	86.20
Child (Age 2-11)	41.85
Babies	2.00

"C" unit (2-4 persons per room)	
Adults	78.60
Youth	42.50
Child (Age 2-11)	23.75
Babies	2.00

All reservations must be made  
directly with GULFSHORE  
BAPTIST ASSEMBLY. Call 228-  
452-7261 for reservations.

## Preschool/Children Leadership Clinic

Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson  
August 17-18

6-9:30 p.m., Friday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturday  
\$5 per person  
No pre-registration required



**Preschool:** John Paul Moccia  
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.



**Younger Children:** Don Odom  
Florida Baptist Theological College  
Graceville, Fla.



**Older Children:** Martha Kirkland  
LifeWay Christian Resources  
Nashville, Tenn.



**Grades 1-6**  
Donna Goodman  
Lakeside BC  
Rogers, Ark.



**Children's Choir  
Coordinators**  
Mary Ann Tyler  
FBC, Roswell, Ga.

For more information contact the Music Department at  
601-292-3271 or 1-800-748-1651

## Pastor Wife and Retreat

August 10-11, 2001  
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly



**Leaders:** L.B. and Nancy Jordan, Arkadelphia, Ark. L.B. is retired director of Church-Minister Relations, Arkansas Baptist Convention.

**Music/Worship Leader:** Eric McNair, minister of music, McLaurin Heights Baptist Church, Pearl

**Purpose:** To provide a time of encouragement, inspiration and fellowship for pastors and wives.

#### Reservation and Registration:

- Participation is limited to the first hundred (100) couples that register for this retreat. This number is based on the available private accommodations at Gulfshore.
- You may use the 2001 Gulfshore Baptist Assembly Information brochure's registration form or register using the form below.

**Cost Per Person:** Adults, \$44.50 Children ages 12 & up, \$24.75 Children ages 2-11, \$13.63 Children under 2, \$1  
Full scholarships for pastors are available, but each will be responsible for the cost of his wife and/or children. Please indicate choice on the registration form below.

**Childcare:** Supervised care will be made available for preschoolers, children and youth.

#### Pastor & Wife Retreat Registration • August 10-11, 2001

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the type of accommodations needed: ☐ Couple only ☐ Couple with children

Total number in family \_\_\_\_\_ Ages of children \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship for pastors only: ☐ yes ☐ no

Please mail or fax to: Frank Simmons, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571.

Phone: 228-452-7261 Fax: 228-452-7263

Please include a deposit of \$40 per person and \$80 per family. MasterCard and Visa are accepted.

Sponsored by: Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, Matt Buckles, director

For more info: Call the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3305.



# Growing Churches Conference



*"Equipping Church Leaders for the 21st Century"*

**Growing Churches Through Discipleship**

**Gulfshore Baptist Assembly  
July 26-28**

For more information:  
Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, MBCB  
1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 (in Jackson)

## Mississippi WMU Church Leadership Training

### FOR ALL CHURCH WMU LEADERSHIP

**August 6**

**FBC, Batesville, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.**

**August 7**

**FBC, Gulfport, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.**

**August 9**

**Camp Garaywa (two sessions, attend one only)  
1 p.m. - 4 p.m. or 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.**

**No cost/No registration required**

*For more info, call the Mississippi WMU department at  
1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson, 601-292-3316 or  
E-mail: tanderson@mbcb.org*



## Worship Conference

*Building on our Heritage  
Open to God's Inspiration*



### Leadership Conferences

Younger Preschool  
Older Preschool  
Younger Children  
Middle Children  
Older Children  
Younger Youth  
Older Youth  
Young Adults  
Median Adults  
Senior Adults  
General Officers  
Pastor/Staff

**Ever had this thought?  
"If I could just do a few things to  
make my Sunday School better..."  
Then Super Saturday is for you!**

## Super Saturday

### CHOOSE FROM ONE OF THREE CONVENIENT LOCATIONS:

**Saturday, August 25, 9 a.m.-noon**

- First Baptist Church, Grenada
- Main Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg

**Saturday, September 8, 9 a.m.-noon**

- Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church, Meridian

**Cost: \$2 per person, which covers all conference materials as well as a copy of the book, "Beyond the Walls: Ten Best Practices."**

**Conference leaders will be special Sunday School equippers from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board as well as LifeWay conference leaders.**

**For more info, please contact the MBCB Sunday School Department at  
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800**



# Pray this day for...

July 13 - July 26, 2001

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

To transform your church into a house of prayer two powerful things must happen -

- (1) Personal prayer lives of the church members must be vibrantly strong.
- (2) Church leaders must know how to lead God's people together to pray effectively.

Rejoice with missionaries Nolen and Sheilah Pridemore for advances in the Brazilian "sertao" (the dry savannahs). In this unreached area, where only 2 percent are evangelicals, Baraunas now has around 100-150 people attending Sunday night services.

A young woman in Spain was impressed by a group of young Christians who were sharing Christ on the streets. She later found them by following the trail of discarded gospel tracts on the sidewalk. Rejoice in the Lord for this young woman came to Christ.

For: (1) Royal Ambassador/Challenger Camp, Central Hills Retreat (Men's Ministry); (2) Super Summer, Mississippi College (Discipleship and Family Ministry); (3) GA Summer Camp, Camp Garaywa (WMU).

For: (1) Royal Ambassador/Challenger Camp, Central Hills Retreat (MM); (2) GA Summer Camp, Camp Garaywa (WMU); (3) Young Musicians' Camp, Blue Mountain (Church Music).

A full-time carpenter and Baptist association's director of missions in Chile, asks for prayer as he and missionary Jerry Coy start a prayer network and missions advocacy newsletter for established congregations, encouraging them in church planting.

A Muslim in Albania was seriously wounded in a knife attack. As Christians prayed for him, he accepted Christ. He declared his faith in Christ at his youngest son's wedding and the whole family followed suit. Now a house church meets in the newlywed couple's home.

Jesse Ureno is a church planter missionary and language groups director for the Inland Empire Baptist Association in Fontana, Calif. Pray for a new start of Portuguese and Japanese missions and the 32 Hispanic groups.

Baptist representatives Charles and Phylis Hardie ask us to pray for the people of Maladonna, especially for one family I. and A., the only known Christians in this area as they reach out to their neighbors. The presence of evil is very strong in this place.

For: (1) Older Children's Retreat, Gulfshore Assembly; (2) Please pray today for President Fidel Castro Ruz of Cuba; (3) Pray for many home Bible study groups to be started in Latvia so that all can hear a clear presentation of the gospel in their heart language.

For: Growing Churches Conference, Gulfshore (D&FM); (2) Church Music Library Conference, Gulfshore (DBS); (3) How to Start New Baptist Churches in Mississippi; Gulfshore (SM).

Give thanks for the Center for Excellence in Colombia, a non-traditional church reaching out to middle-and upper-income professionals in a city through family issues conferences and Bible studies. Pray that God's Word will be shared clearly and that many will respond by receiving Christ.

For: (1) Dad/Lad weekend Camp, Central Hills Retreat (MM); (2) Give thanks to God for Floyd and Sylvia Wingo, newly appointed by the IMB to serve in south Bolivia. Pray for strength in busy days of orientation and preparation and no problems securing their visas.

For: (1) II Centrifuge, Gulfshore Assembly 14th-19th (LifeWay); (2) Pray with journeyman Cindy George to know how to minister through a sports ministry in a town in Brazil. She is working with boys through local clubs, and in a partnership with the military police whose playing fields they use.

For: (1) III Centrifuge, Gulfshore Assembly (Life Way); (2) Pray for the members of the convention's Evangelism and Missions Board as they oversee the work of evangelism, discipleship and church growth with the Ghana Baptist Convention.

"The Lord God is with you...to save... he will quiet you with his love." Zeph. 3:17

## 2001 Annuity's Conference

September 10-12, 2001  
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

"God's Intimacy: Our Peace"

John G. McCall, Sr.  
Bible Study Leader

"From Jesus' Heart To Our Heart," John 14

Jimmy McCaleb and Dot Pray  
Musicians

O.S. Hawkins, Morris Chapman  
and Conferences

- Three days and two nights with meals: \$90 per person, includes a seafood buffet
- Wednesday night special and golf packages available

Contact Robin D. Nichols, Annuity Rep: 1-800-748-1651

## SENIORS

### State Senior Rally

Thursday, August 30  
Broadmoor Baptist Church, Madison (601-898-2345)  
Cost - \$1 at the door 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Speakers: Calvin Miller, Bill Causey and Gene Rester  
Music by "Sweet Adelines"



Calvin Miller

### State Senior Adult Leadership Lab

(open to ministers, officers, Sunday School teachers)

November 1-2, 2001  
(registration 1:30, 11/1, adjourn 1:00 p.m., 11/2)  
Camp Garaywa, Clinton (601-924-5062)  
Cost: \$65 (meals and lodging) OR \$10 for Friday events with lunch only OR \$5 for workshops only (no meals or lodging)

Speakers: Bobby Shows, Dennis Daniels, Janie Walters and Horace Kerr. Music by "Sweet Adelines"



Bobby Shows

### Registration: State Senior Leadership Lab

Registration Deadline: October 29, 2001

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

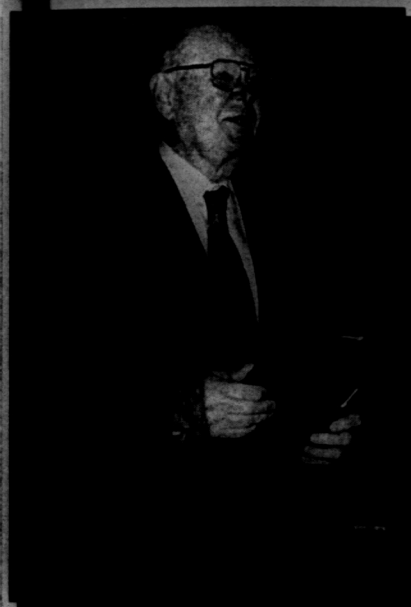
Cost: \$65 - includes registration, three meals and one night's lodging OR \$10 for Friday events and lunch only OR \$5 for workshops (no lodging or meals).  
Make checks payable to MBCB and mail to: Glenn Shows,  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530

Contact Glenn Shows at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800.

# HOUSE TOPS



## NAMES IN THE NEWS



**Bennett**

treasurer. Ralph Davis, church clerk, presented him a plaque and gift certificate from the church. Following the evening worship service Bennett was honored at a reception. Adriani Pater is pastor.

**David Buys of First Church, Brandon,** won fourth place in the State Youth Speaker's Tournament with his speech titled, **Black or White in a Gray World.**



**Buys**



**Castle, the Childresses, and Raulerson**

**William Edgar McMullan of Hattiesburg,** received the master of divinity degree from Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C. on May 26.

**Ordination services for James Childress** were held at Wyatt Church, Senatobia, on June 13. Pictured (from left) are Lee Castle, interim pastor; Stephanie Childress, wife of

James Childress; Childress; and John Raulerson, former pastor of Wyatt Church. Childress is currently the minister of children and youth at Friendship Church, Bells, Tenn.

## BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

The Center for Study of the Life and Work of William Carey located at William Carey College (WCC), Hattiesburg, has been selected as the Featured Web Site by The Baptist Page: A Hall of Church History. Established by WCC faculty members Bennie Cockett and Myron Noonkester, the site offers detailed information about the life and times of the father of modern missions. Noonkester is professor of history and interim dean of the School of Arts, Humanities, and Sciences. Cockett is professor of religion and philosophy and vice president of institutional effectiveness and planning. Acquisitions

include rare books, maps, articles, portraits, and artifacts. When someone logs on to the website, they view not only the text from the books and articles but images of actual pages as well. William Carey was a cobler and a minister in England before going to India as a missionary. He died there in 1834. The website is located at [www.wmcarey.edu/carey/index2.html](http://www.wmcarey.edu/carey/index2.html). The welcome page for the college also contains a link.

**James Sclater and Angela Willoughby,** the performing duo of clarinet and piano known as Lyricas, are set to present a program at St. Martin-in-the-Fields in London on Aug.

10. The recitals are held in the sanctuary of the church, which is the parish church of the royal family. The duo will perform a music program of works by Weber, Horowitz (English composer), and original compositions and arrangements written by Sclater especially for clarinet and piano. Sclater, the clarinet part of the duo, has been a faculty member in the music department of Mississippi College (MC) since 1970. Willoughby, a graduate of MC, recently completed the doctor of musical arts degree in piano performance at Louisiana State University. For information concerning Lyricas, call (601) 925-3445 or 925-3444.

**Carey Dinner Theatre** will present *The Taffetas*, a musical comedy, which opened on July 10 and will run through July 21 in the O. L. Quave Theatre on the campus of William Carey

College in Hattiesburg. Pictured (from left) are cast members **Andrea McMillan** of Tupelo; **Alyssa Hurst** of Hattiesburg; **Anna Walden** of Jackson; and **Nikki Melvin** of Petal. Seats may be reserved by calling (601) 582-6218.



**McMillan, Hurst, Walden, and Melvin**

**Two Blue Mountain College (BMC) senior athletes** were recently recognized for their scholastic abilities. Jackie Vuncannon and Dana Conn were named National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) All-America Scholar-Athletes. Students must maintain a 3.5 grade point average and have completed their junior year to be eligible to become an NAIA All-America Scholar-Athlete. Vuncannon graduated from BMC in May. Conn, a senior, will complete her student teaching in the fall.



**Conn**



**Vuncannon**

TOP 100

# Seeing Believing

Witness the incredible story of the man who changed the world forever, in America's premier outdoor drama. A cast of hundreds, exotic animals and state-of-the-art sound deliver an awe-inspiring performance under the stars.

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A sixty-two member team (pictured) from Lafayette/Marshall Association traveled to Campo Grande, Brazil. The team built a church building, provided a free medical clinic, led Vacation Bible School twice a day, and did door to door evangelism. Over 300 professions of faith were recorded. Don Stanfill is mission director of Lafayette/Marshall Association.

**Senior Citizen's Day** will be held at Antioch Church, Golden, on July 15. Services will be held at 11 a.m. with dinner in fellowship hall at noon. The special guest will be Pruitt Calvert of Louisville.

**Thorn Hill Church, Pelahatchie**, will hold a gospel singing featuring The Provisionals from Lawrence County on July 15 at 6 p.m. Dwight Varner is pastor.

**Youth Bible Drillers** of First Church, Brandon, who attended state drills are (from left) Linda Wolfe, leader; Sarah Goff; Kayla McCarver; Christina Baggett; Holly Hudson; Bryant May; Melissa May; Carmen Wolfe; Zach Fortenberry; Tressie Smith; and Anita Fortenberry, leader.

these days or any day after these days contact Ray Hodges at (601) 694-2160 or Archie Herrin, missions director, at (601) 736-2254. If you can help, let us know in advance so we can provide lunch on these days," said Hodges, member. Don Weber is pastor.

**Harrisburg Church, Tupelo**, will celebrate the opening of its new campus with a building dedication day on Sunday, July 15. The dedication service will be held at 10:30 a.m. in the new sanctuary at 4675 Cliff Gookin Road. Robert Hamblin, former pastor, will deliver the keynote address. Other speakers include Steve Stone of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. A tour of the new facility will be held from 3-5 p.m. Forrest Sheffield is pastor.

**First Church, Ridgeland**, will present A Summer Night of Praise, Friday, July 13, at 7 p.m. The concert will feature Paid in Full, Undivided, and Soldiers Again. For additional information, call (601) 856-6139.

**Movie night** at Byram Church, Jackson, will feature the Jesus Film from 5-7:30 p.m. Sunday, July 22. Fifth Sunday Gospel Sing will be held at 6 p.m. on July 29. Roy Maine is pastor. For more information, call (601) 372-5886.

**Dinner theatre** at Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, will



Bible Drill participants of Harpersville Church, Harpersville

feature Scott Davis, Christian comedian, on July 21 at 6 p.m. For tickets or additional information, call the church at (601) 296-8000.

**Bible Drill participants** of Harpersville Church, Harpersville,

rated superior at the state level. Pictured (front row, from left) are Russell Martin, Seth McDaniel, and Tara Martin; (back row) Matt Dolan, Steven Bell, Hannah Benton, and Lindsey Sanders. Leaders are Suzette Benton and Sherri Patterson.



**New Hope Church, Amory**, exceeded its high attendance goal of 150 with over 318 present on May 20. The special guests were members of the Christian Motorcycle Association. Terry Benton, pastor, preached from the roof of the church and let the members shave his head as promised.

## Revival results

**Tylertown Church, Tylertown:** R. L. and Beth Sigrest, Yazoo City, music evangelists; Mike Glenn, pastor, evangelist; three professions of faith; two rededications; four by letter; and one surrendered to full-time Christian service on the following Sunday.



Bible Drill participants of First Church, Brandon

**Faith Church, Lawrence County**, is in the process of adding education space to the existing building. The church will have the foundation poured and plan to have all framing materials on the job site by July 26. The planned day to frame and dry-in the new wing is July 26, 27, and 28. "We are praying some group or individuals will respond to our need. If you could help on

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**PART-TIME PIANIST NEEDED** & part-time youth/children's minister needed. Please send resume to Hurley Baptist Church, P.O. Box 395, Hurley, MS 39555.

**FULL-TIME MINISTER OF PRESCHOOL** for First Baptist Church, Madison. Send resume to P.O. Box 400, Madison, MS 39130, ATTN: Terry; or e-mail tmartinaz@fbcmadison.org.

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## - THE BAPTIST RECORD



## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Recognizing the risen Lord

John 20:1-18

By Kathy Mord Alford

The ride to the top is bland, almost boring, but your heart thrills the moment you round the swell and then rockets to your throat as you plunge to the bottom.

Can you bail out before twisting into the next treacherous curve? Too late. Before all your body parts catch up with each other, it's back to the top again.

The excitement wears thin as the continual, tortuous cycle numbs you until you don't remember where your heart belongs. When you finally get off, the biggest challenge is simply to walk in a straight line.

A roller-coaster ride or typical, everyday life? Is it tricky walking in a straight line, even though you are going through

all the right motions?

Bob George in *Classic Christianity* writes, "... It isn't hard to live the Christian life. It's impossible! Only Christ can live it."

Too often, we end the Gospel message at the cross when we explain how sin has spiritually killed the person without God.

It is true that Jesus Christ healed us of our sin disease with his death. However, stopping our salvation experience there only cleanses us from sin; it does not empower us to live victorious lives.

This is where the roller-coaster ride begins. We pray earnestly, urgently, and constantly, "God, help me..." and wonder why the abundant life Christ promised is so elusive.



Alford

Even if we lunge off the roller coaster, how can we walk in a straight line? We can't. We're dead.

"A dead man doesn't need help; he needs life!" George stresses. "...Jesus Christ did not come just to get men out of hell and into heaven; He came to get Himself out of heaven and into men!"

The divine, unshakable ride Jesus promises removes us from the vicious circle of sin and death, from false security and despair. Though it takes us through the waters and the fire, high above the sky, or in the deepest ocean, we are held secure in God's righteous right hand.

Mary Magdalene took a classic roller-coaster ride. Luke tells us that seven demons resided in Mary's spirit, pulling her this way and that.

Seven demons wouldn't even have agreed on what sin to entice Mary to fall into.

Never knowing whom she would wake up to be the next day, small wonder that Mary would have felt hopeless. Miraculously, Jesus healed her of the evil spirits and she became a devoted follower.

Security then, to Mary, was the healer from Nazareth. She had a personal testimony of how he had saved her from sin, but did she recognize him as God?

Perhaps her faith in that security died with him on the cross. For, on Easter morning, she went to Jesus' tomb, expecting to anoint his dead body and complete his burial. Her faith was in a living, breathing prophet, and when he died, the joy and security of her salvation died with him.

If we, like Mary, go to the tomb of a dead savior, not to worship our risen Lord, but expecting to mask the stench of unfulfilled promises with fickle affirmations, then we proclaim a false Gospel and the world will mock our schemes.

If we, like Mary, weep for our failure to find Jesus, the our focus is on our effort and not on who he is. Jesus stopped Mary's roller-coaster ride by calling her name. Her response to his voice transformed the churning cycle of hopelessness, false security and despair into a supernatural journey of peace.

Mary could testify along with Paul, "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me."

The Lord speaks our name, promising that he will work in us during our salvation journey. It is the risen Christ who walks the straight line for us and, as we respond by faith in him, we will go on with joy and be led forth with peace.

Alford is a member of First Church, McComb.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Hosea the man

Hosea 1:2-9; 3:1-5

By Harold Simmons

The only introduction we have to the man Hosea is the little information given at the outset of the book that bears his name.

He was the son of Beeri and he prophesied during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. This put his ministry somewhere between 760 BC and 722 BC. Hosea was a citizen of Judah, the Southern Kingdom.

The book of Hosea can be divided into two parts: God's love through Hosea's marriage and God's love through Hosea's messages. There are four reoccurring themes of love, sin, judgement, and hope.

#### Hosea's marriage commitment (1:2-3).

The Lord told Hosea to get married and this he did. He married Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim. It is my belief that Hosea loved this woman and after the marriage she became "an adulterous wife." If this is not true, then the comparison between the love God has for Israel and Israel's adultery would not be complete.

Hosea was reporting about the commitment he had made and the resulting heartbreak caused by his wife's action. He had committed to be her husband in every sense of the word. She had committed to be his wife in every sense of the word. God had committed



Simmons

to be the God of his people and they would have no other god before him.

Gomer broke that relationship as did the people of God. Their adultery was spiritual adultery by worshipping Baal. Hosea was true to his commitment and God would remain true to his covenant.

**Hosea's heartbreak by betrayal (1:4-9).** Hosea's heartbreak is easily seen by the names given to the children at birth. Each is a reminder not only of Gomer's infidelity but also that of Judah.

He named one child *Jezreel* as a reminder of a massacre in Jezreel along with a promise that judgement was coming for that action. *Lo-Ruhamah*, not loved, reflected Gomer's action toward Hosea and Judah's action toward God. *Lo-Ammi*, not my people, was Hosea's recognition that the child was not his. The same is true of

Judah's treatment of God. They had not acted as though they were the people of God.

It is said that Alexander the Great caught a soldier asleep on guard duty. He asked the soldier his name and the reply was "Alexander." To this the great general said to the soldier, "Either change your name or change your actions."

This is what God was saying to Judah. In order to reflect the name given to God's people, we must act in character with his righteousness.

**Hosea's commitment is tried (3:1-2).** That the Lord would tell Hosea to love his wife again is a confirmation of the statement that I made earlier that he indeed loved this woman in their original relationship. God had loved Judah before they had turned against his love for other gods.

With that command, Hosea redeemed his wife for money and grain. He bought her from whoever owned her. God has done that for his people. "We

are bought for a price" and for the purpose of redemption. It is not that God wants to own us but to love us. The price God paid was far greater than the price that Hosea paid.

**Hosea continues his commitment (3:3-5).** The prophet was willing to continue his relationship with his wife. However, there was to be a trial period in which she was to demonstrate a willingness and faithfulness on her part. She was to do what was asked of her, Hosea would be for her a husband. The relationship depended upon action that proved her sincerity.

God is willing to be our God, but he wants assurance by our actions that we do love him. Later, in the New Testament, God calls the church his bride. The special loving relationship is one that produces a beautiful hope. It all depends on our commitment to God.

Simmons is pastor of Hebrew Church, Grenada.

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The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten or (b) typed on 1/2 by 11-inch paper.



no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

When submitting articles, include the name, address, phone number of the author, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos are not accepted.

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All news items are subject to editing and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to publish must be accompanied by a self-addressed



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Mrs. Mamie Smith  
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A. W. Stuart  
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd E. Coil



Celeste Cade (seated), Public Relations Associate, represented The Baptist Children's Village and 22 other Southern Baptist Child Care agencies at The Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans, La. Cade was joined by representatives from The Alabama Baptist Children's Home and The Georgia Baptist Children's Home.



# M-Fuge International teens tackle missions

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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ZGK TPTV LBT OGV GZ  
FSV XSFT VGL LG WT  
FUVUOLTKY JVLG, WJL  
LG FUVUOLTK, SVY LG  
AUPT BUO EUZT S  
KSVOGF ZGK FSVN.

FSKD LTV: ZGKLN-ZUPT

Clue: F = M

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Eight: Forty-Six.

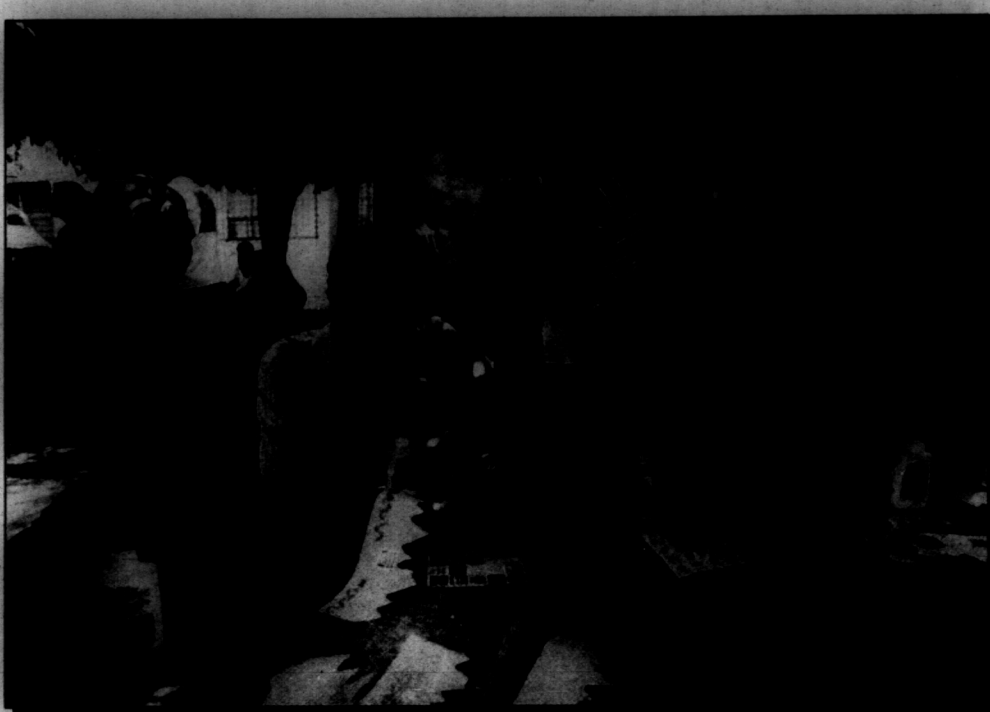
GUADALAJARA, Jal., Mexico (BP) — When the 70 teenagers who attended M-Fuge International in Guadalajara, Jal., Mexico, on June 15-22, went home, they had just begun to embark on missions, camp leaders said.

"Part of what this camp is about is to show the students how easy it is to do missions in their own world," Joel Reynolds, camp pastor from Birmingham, Ala., said.

"This camp is not about completing things; it's about beginning things. This is to open up their hearts to the possibility that missions is something that can be done anytime, anywhere," he pointed out.

The M-Fuge staff of 12 included a Guadalaran resident who works with the International Mission Board (IMB), a Journeyman, a summer missions volunteer, and nine staffers employed for M-Fuge by LifeWay.

All staffers led Bible study groups in the mornings, team missions groups from mid-morning until late afternoon, and worship activities in the evenings.



**CROWNS FOR ROYALTY** — Ryan Biagini (second from left), a member of Freedom Church, Wilmington, N.C., and Jeanette Crisp, a member of Anderson Mill Road Church, Spartanburg, S.C., help kids living in the El Sauz apartment complex in Guadalajara, Mexico, make paper crowns. Biagini and Crisp participated in M-Fuge International in Guadalajara. Co-sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources and the International Mission Board, M-Fuge International is a weeklong missions camp for youth, grades 10 through college. (Photo by Morris Abernathy)

smile or a hug or just getting a bigger grasp of Christianity and how God is working in different countries, specifically, Mexico."

Compton said the kids learn God can bless them because they bless others.

"That's something they don't expect. They want to be a blessing, but they don't expect to get a blessing in return," she said.

Kelly James of Louisville, Ky., led the students in creative activities near Lily of the Valley Baptist Church. While she said she is amazed how much the students grow and learn during their week on the mission field, James said she's learned a few things herself.

"One of the biggest lessons I've had to rely on here is that God is God, and I'm not, and this is not something I can do on my own," she stressed.

"In the States, I can get a group of kids settled down so the youth can take over

and do what they are supposed to do, but I can't do that here. I don't speak the language but, yet, today we sat down with a group of 150 Spanish-speaking kids and planted the plan of salvation."

By learning the words to children's Bible songs and skits in Spanish, "we've been able to glorify God so that people we can't even understand or carry on a conversation with can know God," she said.

"The M-Fuge Staff has done an incredible job," Jenkins said. "They have had a heart for students and vision for youth working in missions. They have adjusted to a new culture and have kept a focus on meaningful ministry."

Co-sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources and IMB, M-Fuge International is a weeklong camp for youth, grades 10 through college.

M-Fuge International events were held this summer in Wales, Venezuela, England, France, and Mexico. Next year events will be held in five cities in Wales, Guadalajara, Mexico; Santa Cruz, Bolivia; Kingston, Canada; and possibly Paris, France, and Amsterdam.



**HELPING HAND** — Will Thompson, a member of Anderson Mill Road Church, Spartanburg, S.C., carries a bag of sand up three flights of stairs for a new floor at Iglesia Bautista Puerta la Hermosa in Guadalajara, Mexico. Others working on the M-Fuge International construction team and taking a short break are (from left) Michelle Ross, Matt Newlun, Kyle Stevens, and Megan Keenan, all members of First Church, Farmington, N.M.; and Brandon Laney, a member of Anderson Mill Road Church. (Photo by Morris Abernathy)

Staffers included Tiffany Triplett, a member of First Church, Jackson, who served as camp director; and Joanna Miley, a member of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, who served as worship leader.

"The camps give kids a taste of missions in other countries and helps them know whether they want to become a bigger part of missions in the future," said Rick Jenkins, IMB strategy coordinator for Western Mexico, who helped arrange the events.

The purpose of M-Fuge International, Jenkins said, is to help kids see "what mission work is all about. I hope the students leave knowing how they feel about missions one way or another. If they don't feel called to missions, this is a great place to find out."

"Everybody should be concerned about missions, but not everybody is called to do the work."

As one of 12 young adults who gave up four weeks of his summer to minister in the sweltering heat of Guadalajara, Reynolds, through his sermons during evening worship services, attempted to teach the kids to "stop wasting God."

"I told them to stop asking God, 'When am I going to get this and when am I going to get that?' and to quit saying 'Oh, I don't have a car' or 'My boyfriend is mad at me' or 'I don't have enough pairs of pants.'"

Reynolds, who led a construction team during the day at Iglesia Bautista Lirio de los Valles (Lily of the Valley Baptist Church), said the small Spanish countryside church had only 12 pews.

"My church in Alabama has hundreds and hundreds of pews. In closets there are pews we don't even use. I just wanted these kids to trust God by saying, 'Wherever we go, whatever we do, I know blessings are going to come to me because that's how God interacts with his children,'" he said.

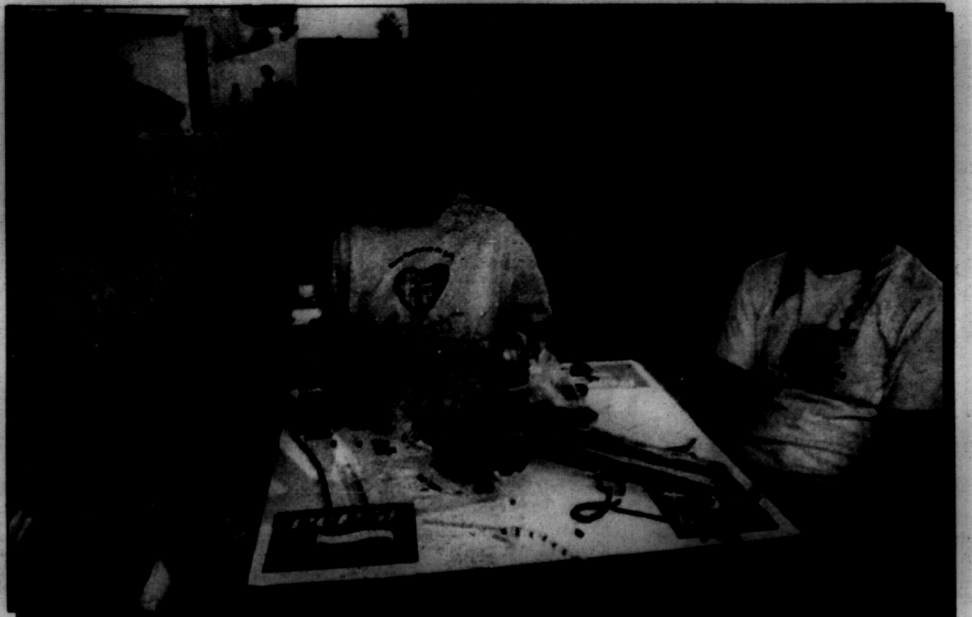
Margo Compton, of Louisville, Ky., led a team of youth who taught Vacation Bible School in a poverty-stricken area near Iglesia Bautista Elohim, a 40-member church which meets in the home of Pastor Gabrielle Barreara.

"I can see a definite difference in the kids from the beginning of week to the end of the week," said Compton, who was a Missionary Journeyman for two years in P u e b l o ,

Mexico, and speaks near-f l u e n t Spanish.

"I think the kids come ready to serve and ready to give. I also think they are not quite sure how God will work in their lives, but they end up going home feeling blessed that God has

given something to them whether it is showing the love of God through



**GIFTS OF LOVE** — M-Fuge participants (from left) Samantha Swaney, Allison Hansen, and Lisa Schroeder, all members of North Cheyenne Church, Cheyenne, Wyo., make necklaces to give away to children of Guadalajara, Mexico. Co-sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources and the International Mission Board, M-Fuge International is a weeklong missions camp for youth, grades 10 through college. (Photo by Morris Abernathy)